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**Mini Lesson**

Narratives

(making connections)

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| WRITING ABOUT FAMILY | Reading texts with similar themes allows students to make text to text connections; to compare and contrast characters, settings, plots, and ideas; and to generate writing ideas through common experiences.  Family stories, traditions and histories are wonderful examples of how to pull what you know into your writing. Teach children to listen to stories passed along through oral tradition and put those stories on paper. Help children to realize the writing potential of all of the stories that they want to tell about in class. | * Keepers by Jeri Hanel Watts and Felicia Marshall (grandparents; recording memories) * Night Tree by Eve Bunting (family tradition) * My Great-Aunt Arizona by Gloria Houston (recording family history) * Love You Forever by Robert Munsch (mother’s love) *\*heart sticker* * My Grandpa and the Sea by Katherine Orr (grandparents) *\*small seashell* * My Ol’ Man by Patricia Polacco (father) * Abuela by Arthur Doros * Aunt Flossie’s Hats by Elizabeth Howard |
| WRITING ABOUT FRIENDS | Friends are an important part of children’s lives. Exploring friendship through picture books is an excellent way to support needed social skills. Friendships are a rich source of stories for children. | * Best Friends by Steven Kellogg |
| WRITING ABOUT SCHOOL | Children know about school. It's a major part of their lives. They all have school experiences. Writing about school is a natural topic. | * We Share Everything by Robert Munsch |
| WRITING ABOUT SECRETS | For children, secrets are fun. Writing about secrets can bring out the creativity in kids. Dreaming up secrets allows their imaginations to free up and their writing to soar. | * Barn Dance by Bill Martin Jr. * The Wise Woman and Her Secret by Eve Merriam * The Secret Knowledge of Grownups by David Wiesner |
| WRITING ABOUT MEMORIES | Everyone has memories. Memories (especially childhood memories) are rich resources for writer. Children can learn to tap into their memories (and the memories of parents and grandparents) for lots of wonderful writing ideas. | * The Memory Box * Keepers by Jeri Hanel Watts and Felicia Marshall * The Hundred Penny Box by Sharon Bell Mathis *\*new penny* * Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge by Mem Fox * When I Was Young In the Mountains by Cynthia Rylant |
| WRITING ABOUT ADVENTURES | Children love adventures and tend to have great imaginations. Let their imaginations soar and allow them to write their own adventures. | * Weslandia by Paul Fleishman |

